

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 006027

R 261050Z OCT 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8432

S E C R E T USNATO 5967

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, FR-NATO
SUBJECT: FRANCE AND NATO

REF: A. USNATO 4985 EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

B. STATE 220933

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE

1. DEPUTY DEFENSE ADVISOR (BOWMAN) MET WITH FRENCH MILITARY ADVISOR (COLONEL DE MAS LATRIE) TO DISCUSS PROGRESS TOWARD US GOAL OF A LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR NATO. BOWMAN REVIEWED MAIN POINTS MADE IN SECDEF LETTER OF OCTOBER 17 TO DPC MINISTERS OF DEFENSE.
AMB RUMSFELD AND BOWMAN HAD COVERED MOST OF THESE POINTS WITH FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE ON 16 SEPTEMBER (REF A)

2. BOWMAN EMPHASIZED NATO TRIAD OF STRATEGIC, TACTICAL NUCLEAR, AND CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY. INDICATING THAT US LONG RANGE CONCEPT CONCENTRATES ON CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY BECAUSE THAT AREA NEEDS MUCH WORK AND OTHER TWO PARTS OF THE TRIAD ARE DEALT WITH IN OTHER FORA. HE STATED THAT A STRONG CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY WOULD DETER CONVENTIONAL ATTACK AND AT THE SAME TIME INCREASE THE DETERRENCE VALUE OF NATO TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY BY FORCING PACT TO CONCENTRATE LARGE MASSES OF EQUIPMENT. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT ON FLEXIBLE NUCLEAR TARGETING.

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3. BOWMAN OUTLINED US VIEWS ON TENDENCY TO EMPHASIZE NATO WEAKNESSES AND WARSAW PACT STRENGTHS SUCH AS TANK QUALITY, NEW ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, HIGH QUALITY TACTICAL AIRCRAFT, PRECISION AIR DELIVERED WEAPONS, NEW ANTI-AIR WEAPONS, SUPERIOR TRAINING

FOR BOTH GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

4. BOWMAN THEN REVIEWED SOME MAJOR US GOALS FOR MORE EFFICIENT COOPERATION IN NATO:

A. FLEXIBILITY. PLANNING FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT BETWEEN CORPS AREAS AND FLEXIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF REINFORCEMENT;

B. STANDARDIZATION. AGREEMENT ON STANDARDIZED MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING US USE OF SOME EUROPEAN SYSTEMS AS WELL AS EUROPEAN USE OF US SYSTEMS;

C. RATIONALIZATION. SAVING RESOURCES THROUGH COMMON TRAINING, COOPERATIVE LOGISTICS, ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATE FACILITIES, AND SO FORTH.

5. FINALLY BOWMAN COVERED US POSITION ON SEVERAL KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE DRC:

A. WARNING OF WAR. SPECULATION ON DAYS OF WARNING NOT USEFUL. EMPHASIS ON NATIONS TAKING ACTION ON RECEIPT OF FIRST INTELLIGENCE INDICATORS;

B. DURATION OF WAR. PLANNING FOR SPECIFIC NUMBER OF DAYS NOT USEFUL. DETERRENCE REQUIRES THAT WARSAW PACT NOT EXPECT NATO CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE TO COLLAPSE 5TH DAY, 10TH DAY, OR ANY OTHER SPECIFIC NUMBER OF DAYS. IF NATO BLOCKS INITIAL ATTACK, IT MUST BE CAPABLE OF HOLDING DURING NEGOTIATIONS. MUST NOT BE FORCED TO NUCLEAR WAR MERELY BECAUSE OF LOGISTICS PROBLEMS. NATO IS IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE ON WAR STOCKS VIS-A-VIS THE WARSAW PACT IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

C. RESOURCE LEVELS FOR DEFENSE. US SUGGESTS A TARGET OF 3 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR DEFENSE BUDGETS.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS TO EMBASSY PARIS. MCAULIFFE
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NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO05967
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741091/abbrycj.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. USNATO 4985 EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE AND NATO
TAGS: MPOL, FR-NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005